

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A cassette construct for preparing an inverted repeat sequence of a target sequence consisting of:

an adaptor sequence,

a spacer sequence, ~~and~~

an inverted sequence of the adaptor sequence, and

a target sequence bound to the adaptor sequence, the inverted sequence of the adaptor sequence, or both, wherein the target sequence is a target sequence in RNA interference.

2. (Original) The cassette construct according to claim 1, wherein the spacer sequence is an intron sequence.

3. (Currently Amended) The cassette construct according to claim 1, wherein either or both ends of the cassette construct ~~are~~ have been pretreated for prior to target sequence binding, wherein the pretreatment comprises any one of the following:

phosphorylation of the 5' end of either or both ends of a cassette construct;

addition of (dT) to the 3' end of either or both ends of a cassette construct;

addition of topoisomerase I and phosphorylation of a single 3' end of a cassette construct;

and

addition of (dT) and topoisomerase I to a single 3' end and phosphorylation of such 3' end of a cassette construct.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method for preparing an amplification product comprising an inverted repeat sequence of a target sequence via PCR with the use of the cassette construct according to claim [[4]] 1 as a template and a single primer derived from a sequence at either end of the target sequence.

6. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method for preparing an inverted repeat sequence of a target sequence via PCR with the use of the cassette construct according to claim [[4]] 1 as a template.

7. (Currently Amended) A plasmid comprising the cassette construct according to claim [[4]] 1 ~~incorporated therein~~.

8. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing an inverted repeat sequence of a target sequence via PCR with the use of the plasmid according to claim 7 as a template.

9. (Withdrawn) The method for preparing an inverted repeat sequence of a target sequence according to claim 8, wherein PCR is asymmetric PCR.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, wherein a 3' end of a primer used in PCR contains a spacer sequence.

11. (Currently Amended) An expression vector comprising an amplification product, wherein said amplification product comprises an ~~[[the]]~~ inverted repeat sequence of ~~[[the]]~~ a target sequence, an adaptor sequence, a spacer sequence, and an inverted sequence of the adaptor sequence prepared by the method according to claim 5.

12. (Original) A host cell transformed with the expression vector according to claim 11.

13. (Currently Amended) The cassette construct according to claim 2, wherein either or both ends of the cassette construct ~~are~~ have been pretreated ~~for~~ prior to target sequence binding, wherein the pretreatment comprises any one of the following:

phosphorylation of the 5' end of either or both ends of a cassette construct;

addition of (dT) to the 3' end of either or both ends of a cassette construct;

addition of topoisomerase I and phosphorylation of a single 3' end of a cassette construct;

and

addition of (dT) and topoisomerase I to a single 3' end and phosphorylation of such 3' end of a cassette construct.

14. (Currently Amended) The cassette construct according to claim 2, which comprises a target sequence bound to the adaptor sequence and the inverted sequence of the adaptor sequence ~~thereto at its either or both ends.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The cassette construct according to claim 3, which comprises a target sequence bound to the adaptor sequence and the inverted sequence of the adaptor sequence thereto at its either or both ends.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 9, wherein a 3' end of a primer used in PCR contains a spacer sequence.

17. (Currently Amended) An expression vector comprising the cassette construct according to claim 3 the inverted repeat sequence of the target sequence prepared by the method according to claim 6.

18. (Currently Amended) The cassette construct according to claim 2, which comprises
~~An expression vector comprising the inverted repeat sequence of the~~ a target sequence bound to
the adaptor sequence prepared by the method according to claim 6.

19. (Currently Amended) The cassette construct according to claim 3, which comprises
~~An expression vector comprising the inverted repeat sequence of the~~ a target sequence bound to
the adaptor sequence prepared by the method according to claim 9.

20. (Previously Presented) A cassette construct for preparing an inverted repeat sequence of a target sequence, the construct comprising an adaptor sequence, a spacer sequence, and an inverted sequence of the adaptor sequence, wherein the spacer sequence is between the adaptor sequence and the inverted sequence of the adaptor sequence.